

D-352
Dorchester County Board of Education
Office Building
Cambridge
c. 1915
Private

For much of the late nineteenth and twentieth century, this property was owned by the Dorchester County Board of Education or the county commissioners, a period of ownership that stretched between 1881 and 1999. Although this building has been previously estimated to date from the first record of leasehold ownership during the post Civil War era, this single-story, pyramidal roofed frame office was not erected until the early twentieth century. It replaced a much smaller structure that on was the same site, a fact that is documented by the Sanborn Insurance Company maps issued in 1911 and 1918. The 1911 map delineates a small rectangular single-story structure with a front porch, whereas by January 1918, this squarish proportioned single-story office building with its front portico was on the site. The blockish frame building, supported on a fully excavated foundation with a cellar room, is enhanced by early twentieth century neoclassical features such as the Tuscan columns on the front portico, slate roof, modillion block cornice, and paired window sash.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-352

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic

Dorchester Co. Board of Education Office Building

other

2. Location

street and number

507 Court Lane

not for publication

city, town

Cambridge

vicinity

county

Dorchester

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owner)

name

Winterbottom, Inc.

street and number

101 Choptank Terrace

telephone 410-376-0302

city, town

Cambridge

state

MD

zip code

21613

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court

liber

MLB 413 folio 630

city, town

Cambridge

tax map 301

tax parcel 8002

tax ID number

7-200277

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-352

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The former Dorchester County Board of Education office building is located at 507 Court Lane in the center of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story, three-bay by three-bay frame office block is supported on a brick foundation with a fully excavated cellar; access through a full size door is located on the southeast side. Built around 1915, the single-story, blockish frame structure is sheathed in part with its original weatherboard siding on its northwest face that abuts 509 Court Lane, and aluminum board-and-batten style siding on the other three sides. The building is capped by a medium pitched pyramidal roof sheathed with slate. The building has a southwestern principal exposure.

The Court Lane (main) façade is defined by a symmetrical fenestration with a center neoclassical entrance and flanking paired window units fitted with single-pane sash and louvered vinyl dormers.. The front entrance features a center replacement door topped by an arched fanlight and multi-pane sidelights. A dentil molding enriches the cornice molding over the entrance. Sheltering the front doorway is a flat roofed portico supported on Tuscan columns with steps descending on two sides and a railing stretching between the columns. The eave of the porch is enriched with a row of modillion blocks that continue around three sides of the building. Marking the southwest slope of the hip roof is a small hip roofed dormer also trimmed with a block cornice. The face of the dormer serves as an attic vent. Piercing the center of the pyramidal roof is a single flue brick stove chimney.

The southeast side elevation includes a set of masonry steps that descend to a full size doorway providing access to the cellar space. Laid in irregular coursed common bond, the cellar wall is pierced by a centrally located, partially glazed door that is flanked by six-pane windows. The main floor is defined by a series window units, and the eave is finished with the block cornice.

There is only one window unit on the back (northeast) elevation, and the base of the roof is finished with a plain boxed cornice. The northwest side is a weatherboarded wall surface.

The interior has been reworked over the last half century to suit modern tenants.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-352

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register☐ Maryland Register☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE

Clearly built during the first decades of the twentieth century with its neoclassical exterior details, this single-story pyramidal roofed office building is one of four office buildings that define the northeast side Court Lane across the street from the Dorchester County Courthouse. The blockish frame building, supported on a fully excavated brick foundation with cellar, is enhanced by a Tuscan columned portico enriched with a modillion block cornice that stretches around three sides of the office block. The pyramidal shaped slate roof, defined by a small hip roofed dormer, provides a contrasting roof form to the other gable roofed structures next door.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

For much of the late nineteenth and twentieth century this lot was owned by the Dorchester County Board of Education or the County Commissioners, a period of ownership that stretched between 1881 and 1999.¹ Although this building has been estimated to date to the first record of leasehold ownership during the post Civil War era, the structure itself was not erected until the early twentieth century. It replaced a much smaller structure documented by the Sanborn Insurance maps printed in 1911 and 1918.² The 1911 map delineates a small rectangular single-story structure with a front porch, whereas by January 1918 the squarish proportioned single-story office building with its front portico was in place.

¹ Dorchester County Land Records, CL 3/369, 24 August 1881; PLC 128/367, 15 June 1962; and MLB 413/630.

² Sanborn Insurance Maps, October 1911 and January 1918, Library of Congress.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-352

Name Dorchester Co. Board of Education Office Building
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Dorchester County Board of Education Office Building
507 Court Lane
Cambridge, Maryland 21863

Map 301, Parcel 8002

MLB 413/630 County Commissioners of Dorchester County

to

11.2.1999 Winterbottom, Inc.

PLC 128/367 Board of Education

to

6.15.1962 County Commissioners of Dorchester County

CL 3/369 James S. Shepherd

to

8.24.1881 Board of Education

All that lease of a lot lying on Court Lane in the town of Cambridge in the County last aforesaid, the said Lease having been executed unto Thomas W. Martin of of Talbot County by Mary R. LeCompte of Dorchester County aforesaid

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-352

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.
Sanborn Insurance Maps, various issues, Library of Congress.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1/2 acre
Acreage of historical setting 1/2 acre
Quadrangle name Sharptown, MD-DEL

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

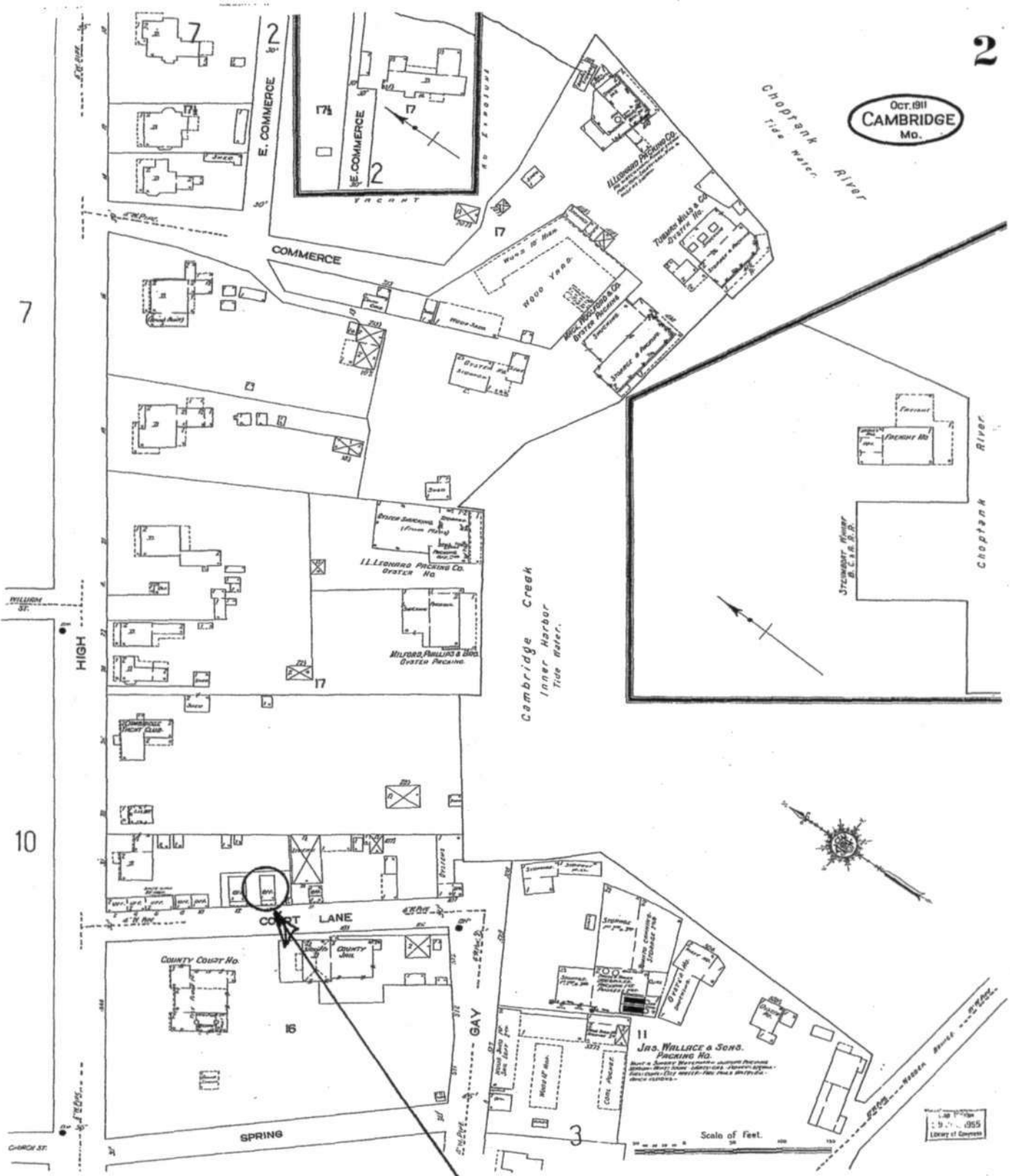
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	7/23/2008
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

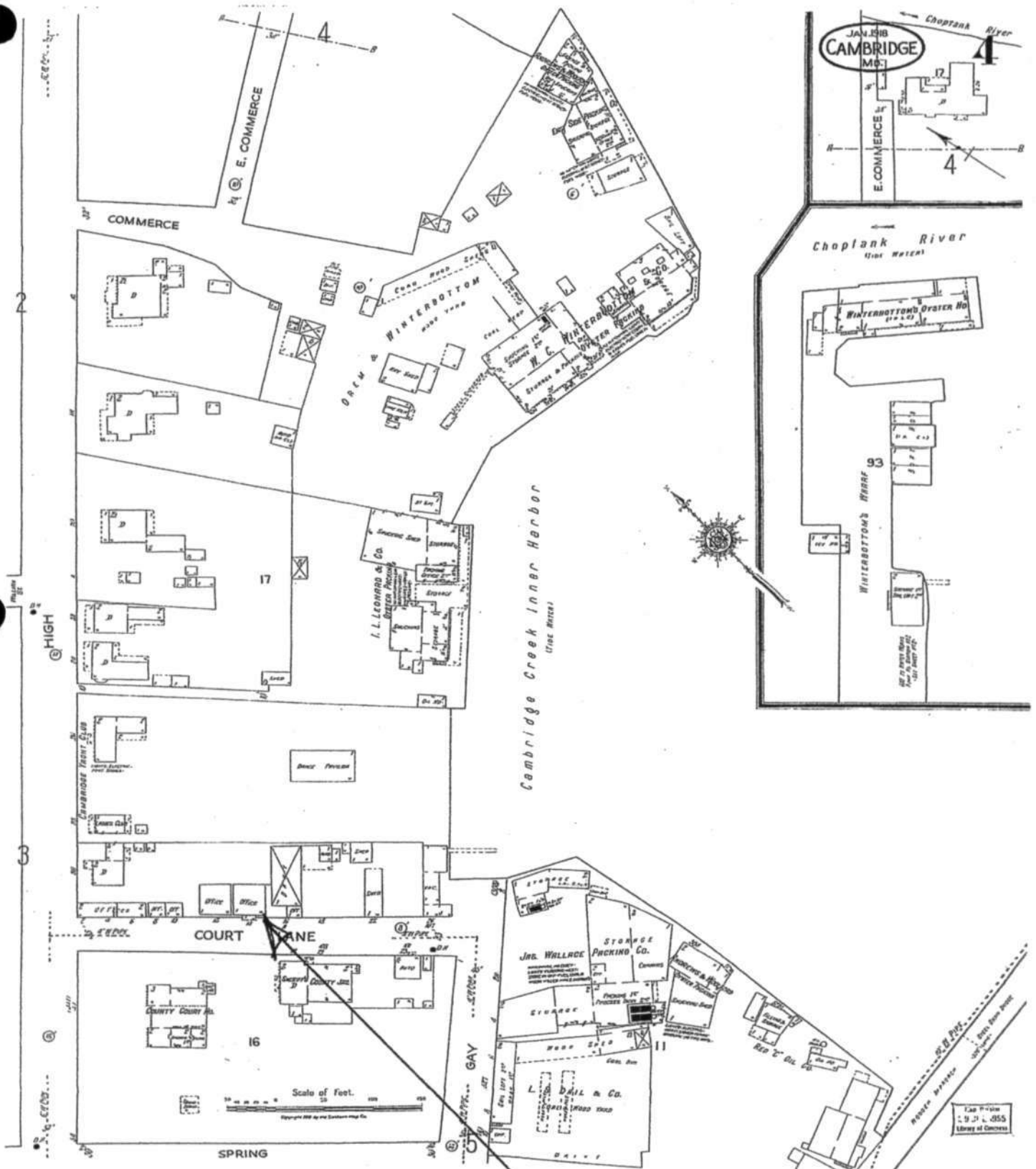
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

OCT. 1911
CAMBRIDGE
Mo.



D-352, Dorchester Co., Board of
Education Office Building -
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1911



D-352, Dorchester Co. Board of
Education Office Building
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1918

Howell
Point

D-352, Dorchester Co., Board of
Education Office Building -
Cambridge, MD Quadrangle, 1988

TALBOT CO
DORCHESTER CO

Light

Hambrooks
Bar

Stagle 3

Boat
Ramp

Radio
Tower
(WCEN)
Great Marsh
Point

Golf
Course
Cem

SANDY
HILL
RD

Sandy Hill
Sch

Glasgow
Sch

Middle
Sch

Golden Shore
Sch

PO
BM 20

Greenlawn
Cem

BM 12

Chesapeake
College

St. Clair
Sch

CAMBRIDGE

Bethel
Cem

Maces Lane

35'

4270

4269

5761 II SW
(CHURCH CREEK)

HUDSON R ML
(LLOYDS 4.5 MI.)

HORN PT
RD

JENKINS
CREEK

ROAD 16

GLASGOW

GLENBURN

OAKLEY

LEONARDS

GREENWOOD

ROBBINS

PINE

CEDAR

BM 18

18

16

17



D-352

DORCHESTER Co. Board of Education Building
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Co., MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

9/08, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER
WEL/M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

1/1

1003524661

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 507 Court Lane				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Dorchester		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Commissioners of Dorchester County				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dorchester County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: 206 High Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge		STATE: Maryland		21613
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Liber 128/Folio				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> (Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered </div> <div> (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p> This is a small one story frame office building with a hip roof that rises to a peak. The front facade consists of three bays; a center door and a window on either side. The door is flanked by rectangular sidelights and has a semicircular fanlight above. In front of the door is a flat roofed portico, supported by Doric columns, with a ballustrade across the front. There are stairs on both sides of the portico. The windows on either side are both double windows, consisting of two nine over one sash windows separated by a mullion. Modillions embellish the roof of the cornice of the building and portico. There is a small flat roofed dormer on the front with a modillioned cornice. The original wood siding has been covered with simulated board and batten aluminum siding. </p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is part of an attractive row of office buildings on Court Lane which all date to sometime in the mid 19th century. These buildings are small in scale, with classical ornamentation, except for 513 which was renovated in the late 19th century. They are significant as some of the earliest surviving commercial structures in Cambridge.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Catherine L. Moore

ORGANIZATION

DATE

11/30/75

STREET AND NUMBER:

Route 3, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN:

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland

12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

507 Court Lane
Cambridge, Maryland

PLC 128/367

This office building, like 509 Court Lane, was leased in 1875 from the property of Mrs. Mary R. LeCompt (see 204 High Street). Dr. Thomas W. Martin, who acquired the land in October 1875, built the office late that year or early in 1876. Attorney James S. Shepherd acquired the office in 1879. Two years later the County School Commissioners purchased it. Since 1962 the property has been owned by the Dorchester County Commissioners and currently houses the office of the Building Superintendent. It is one of several nineteen office buildings in the vicinity of the Courthouse in Cambridge.

Sources:

Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

Land Records.

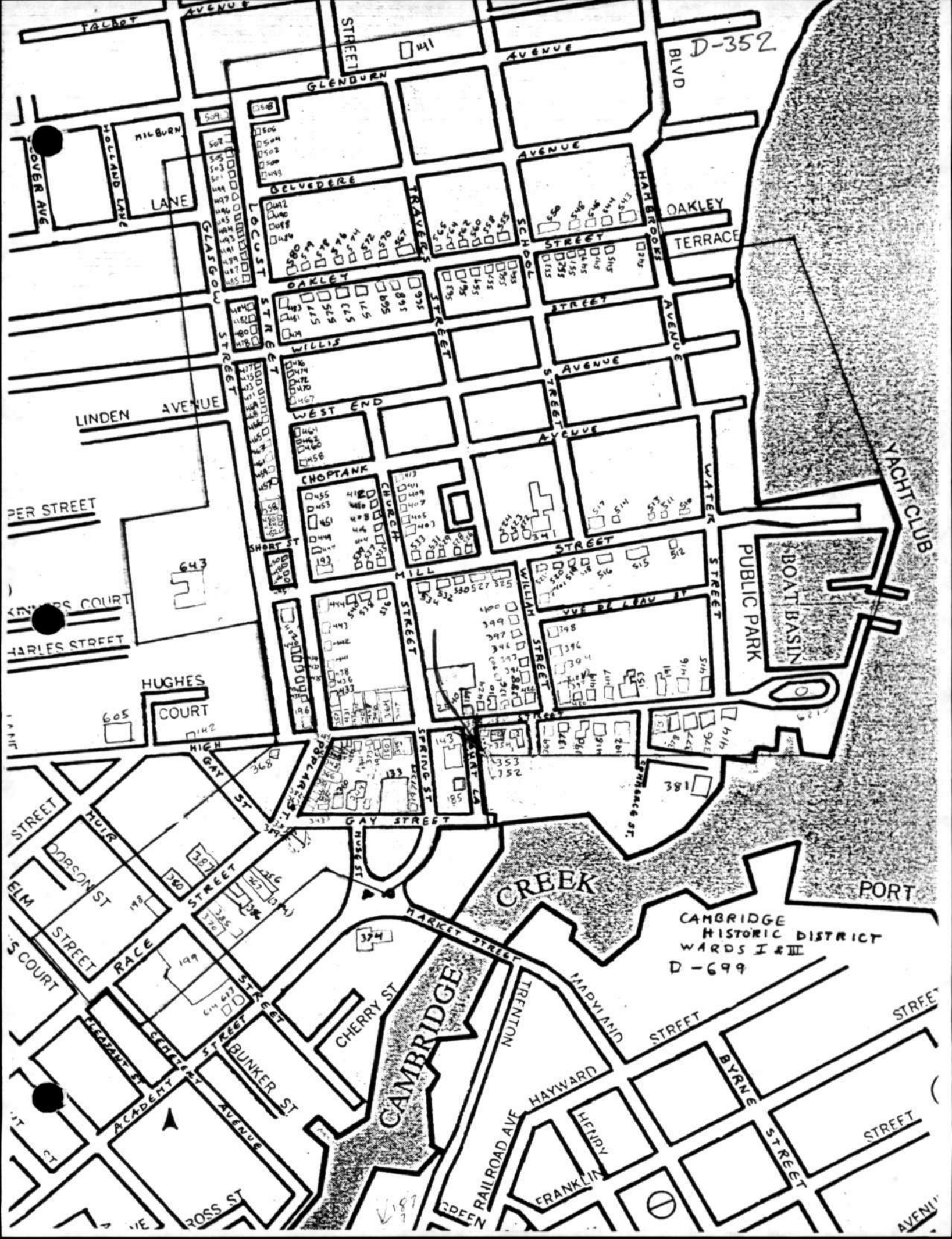
Dorchester County Office Building, Cambridge, Maryland.

Assessment Records.

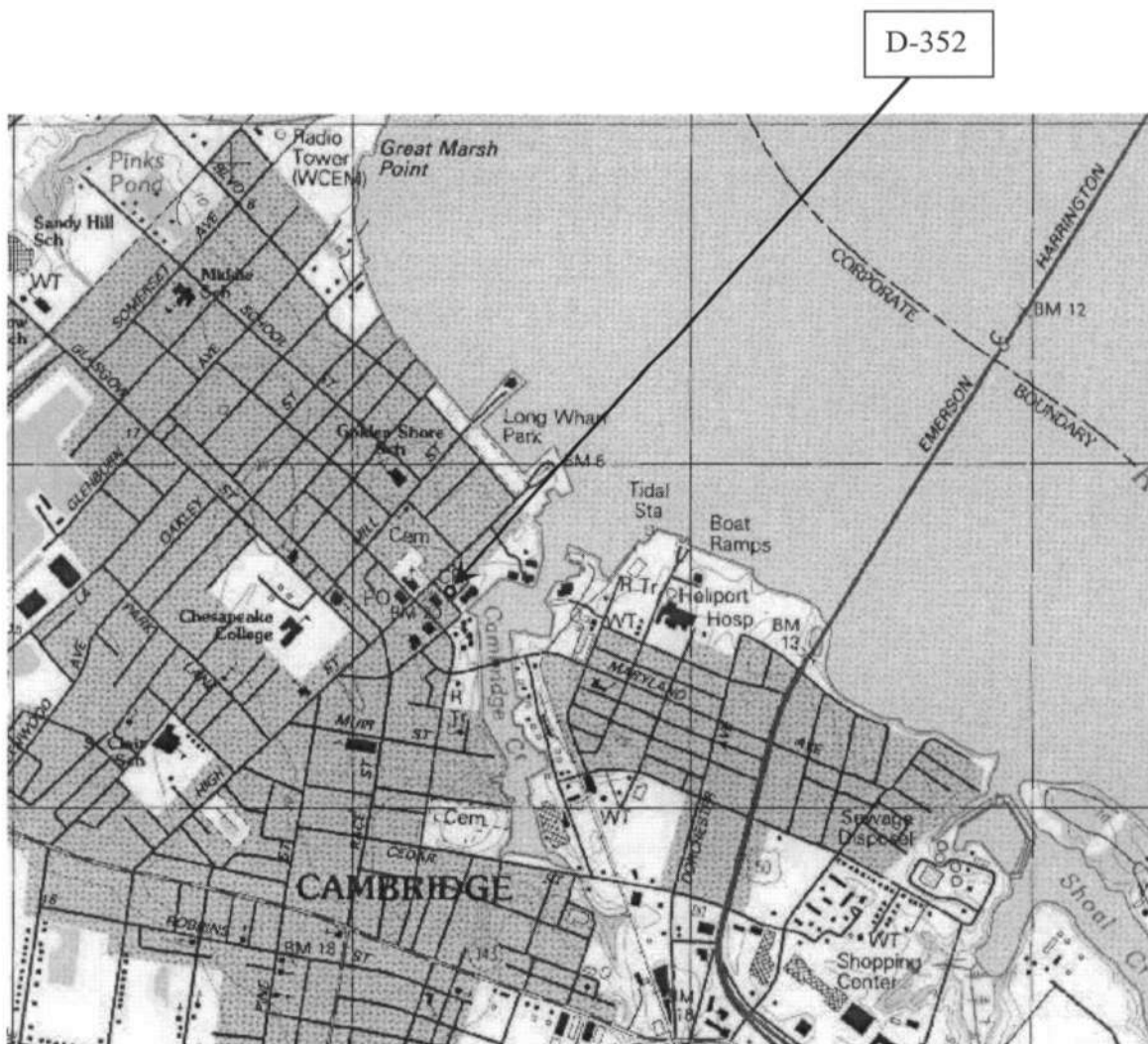
Research by:

Terrance P. Walbert

1976



D-352
Office Building
507 Court Lane
Cambridge
Cambridge Quad.
Dorchester Co.





507 Court Lane, Cambridge - South Facade - C. L. Moore, 1976

D-352

46%